

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Hearing on “American Energy Security and Innovation: An Assessment of Private-Sector
Successes and Opportunities in Energy Efficient Technologies”
February 26, 2013

(As Prepared for Delivery)

I want to welcome Senator Murkowski and Senator Shaheen - thank you for crossing the Capitol this morning to provide your perspectives on energy efficiency innovation. Energy efficiency is not only a bipartisan issue, but as your presence here today demonstrates, there is bicameral interest as well.

For an economy to thrive, it needs energy. In fact, increased energy consumption is often a harbinger of economic growth – a very good thing by any measure. When we talk about energy efficiency, I believe our goal is to maintain and enhance our economic growth by finding ways to maximize the ways we use energy – to get the most bang for the buck. Energy efficiency measures are some of the simplest and most affordable ways to address U.S. energy demand. The U.S. has steadily improved its energy productivity as a result of advances in technology driven by private sector innovation. Reducing waste and consuming less energy are commonsense strategies to cut costs, which is why the industrial and manufacturing sectors have undertaken significant efforts to improve efficiency and reap the resulting economic benefits.

But significant energy efficiency opportunities remain, and we will hear about some of those opportunities – as well as the challenges – from our distinguished panelists today. We must also remember, as the sequester takes center stage this week, that the federal government is the nation’s largest user of energy, and sensibly utilizing energy savings techniques can significantly reduce the amount of taxpayer dollars spent on federal energy costs.

On behalf of all my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, I want to again thank Senators Murkowski and Shaheen – and all of our panelists – for taking the time to be with us today, and we look forward to working together on these issues in the 113th Congress.

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